

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 ABF-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7277

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 943

NEW DELHI FOR ASST SEC SISCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, UN, CY, UK

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION ON UNFICYP
REDUCTION

REF: STATE 74 253

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BEGIN SUMMARY: AT MEETING BETWEEN EMBASSY AND UK HICOM
OFFICERS TO DISCUSS UNFICYP REDUCTION, IT DEVELOPED THAT
BROAD AGREEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN TWO MISSIONS ON SUBSTANCE,
TIMING AND TACTICS. BOTH BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIAL
REDUCTION CAN BE EFFECTED WITHOUT SERIOUSLY ENDANGERING
PEACE AND THAT TIME HAS COME FOR MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO
URGE UNFICYP TO INITIATE MEANINGFUL STUDY LOOKING TOWARD
SUCH REDUCTIONS. JUNE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING DOES NOT
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SEEM TOO SOON FOR ANNOUNCEMENT BY UNSYG THAT STUDY IS UNDER WAY. END SUMMARY

1. DCM, DATT AND CHIEF POL OFF MET WITH UK HICOM COUNTERPARTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE AND MODALITIES OF REDUCING UNFICYP. ON QUESTION WHETHER UN FORQTOCOULD BE CUT BACK SEVERELY WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLY INCREASIG RISK OF RECURRENCE OF INTERCOMMUNAL FIGHTING, BOTH GROUPS FIRMLY BELIEVE ANSWER IS AFFIRMATIVE. DEPT IS FAMILIAR WITH REASONS: INCREASED ABILITY AND WILL ON PART OF BOTH COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT SMALL INCIDENTS FROM ESCALATING, GROWING DESIRE PARENT COUNTRIES TO AVOID WAR OVER CYPRUS, POINTLESSNESS OF MANY OF PRESENT FIXED OUTPOSTS, ETC.

2. ADDITIONAL POINT WHICH BRITISH STRESSED, AND WITH WHICH WE AGREE, IS THAT THERE IS LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUBSTANTIAL ARMED BODY OF MEN WHICH HAS NEVER USED FORCE TO QUELL INTERCOMMUNAL DISPUTES AND IS NOT LIKE TO USE IT. (UN TROOPS CURRENTLY HAVE STANDING ORDERS NOT TO FIRE EXCEPT IN SELF- DEFENSE.) IN ALL RECENT DISPUTES , UNFICYP HAS ACTED AS MEDIATOR AND NEGOTIATOR; ITS MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN ABILITY TO DEFUSE DEVELOPING CONTROVERSIES AT THEIR EARLY STAGES. IN SHORT, UNFICYP HAS KEPT PEACE UP TO NOW WITHOUT USING FORCE (ALTHOUGH TO SOME EXTENT THE IMPLICIT POSSIBILITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE) AND IN FUTURE IS EVEN MORE LIKELY TO PLAY PRIMARILY OBSERVATION AND MEDIATORY ROLE. ACCORDINGLY, IN SENSE INDICATED ABOVE, REPS OF THE TWO MISSIONS DO NOT ACCEPT UNFICYP MILITARY STAFF CONTENTION THAT UN FORCE COULD NOT KEEP PEACE WITH FEWER TROOPS.

3. BOTH MISSIONS BELIEVE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS POSSIBLE EVEN IF IT IS ASSUMED THAT UNFICYP CAN USE ARMED FORCE, WITHOUT SUBSTANTIALLY DEGRADING UNFICYP CAPACITY TO PUT ARMED UNITS IN FIELD. SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER REDUCTION POSSIBLE IF IT IS UNDERSTOOD (AS ABOVE) THAT FORCE WILL NOT BE EMPLOYED.

4. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT REDUCTION OF UNFICYP COULD PROBABLY BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN EXISTING MANDATE.
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FORMALLY ALTERING MANDATE WOULD OPEN PROSPECT OF

CONTROVERSY AMONG UNSYG, SOME SC MEMBERS, PARTIES TO DISPUTE AND UNFICYP ITSELF. WHAT SEEMS TO US REQUIRED IS BROAD UNDERSTANDING THAT MANDATE, WHICH STIPULATES THAT UNFICYP SHOULD USE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF FIGHTING, DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT FORCE WOULD BE USED EXCEPT IN SELF- DEFENSE. INTERPRETING MANDATE IN THIS WAY WOULD UNDERCUT UNFICYP COMMAND ARGUMENT THAT IT REQUIRES PRESENT NUMBER OF TROOPS TO INTERVENE IN EXTREMIS AND WOULD OBVIATE NEED FOR CHANGE IN MANDATE. IT MIGHT ALSO BE WAY OF GETTING AROUND SEMANTIC PROBLEM OF WHETHER REDUCED UN FORCE WOULD, STRICTLY SPEAKING, BE CONSIDERED AN OBSERVER RATHER THAN A PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

5. NEITHER WE NOR HICOM FEEL QUALIFIED TO ESTIMATE EXACT NUMBER OF TROOPS THAT UNFICYP WOULD REQUIRE TO PERFORM ITS RESPONSIBILITIES EFFECTIVELY ONCE THEORETICAL RIGHT TO EMPLOY FORCE HAD BEEN ELIMINATED. BOTH MISSIONS AGREE THAT SUFFICIENT PRESENCE MUST REMAIN TO BE ABLE TO DETECT TENSIONS AS THEY ARISE AND GET PERSONNEL QUICKLY TO POTENTIAL TROUBLE SPOTS. SIZE OF FORCE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THIS AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE DETERMINED BY UNSYG- APPOINTED STUDY GROUP.

6. ON TIMIG, MISSION BELIEVE FIRST OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE UNSYG ANNOUNCEMENT AT JUNE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING (PERHAPS INCORPORATED IN REPORT TO SC)8 TO EFFECT THAT FULL- SCALA STUDY LOOKING TOWARDS SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF UNFICYP HAS BEEN INITIATED. WE WOULD HOPE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS TO THIS END COULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN US, UK AND CANADA, BROADENING SOON THEREAFTER TO INCLUDE OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS. MISSIONS FEEL IT REASONABLE FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO REQUEST UNSYG TO HAVE STUDY COMPLETED BY CERTAIN DATE. THREE OR FOUR MONTHS SHOULD BE AMPLE , AND SYG MIGHT BE ASKED, IF CIRCUMSTANCES PROPITIOUS, TO CONVENE SPECIAL SC MEETING IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER TO CONSIDER STUDY' S CONCLUSIONS AND PUT REDUCTION INTO EFFECT.

7. FROM UNFICYP WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNSYG HAS DIRECTED THAT CONTINGENCY STUDY BE UNDERTAKEN TO ESTIMATE FORCE
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STRENGTH NEEDED TO MEET VARIOUS TRENDS IN INTERCOMMUNAL
RELATI
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, CY, UK, UN
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